
**COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**January 3, 2008
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Community, Economic & Human Development Committee held its meeting at the SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles.

Members Present

Barnes, Christine	City of La Palma
Dubois, Diana (EA)	Gateway Cities
Edney, Jon (Chair)	City of El Centro/IVAG
Fesmire, Melanie	CVAG
Garcia, Joe G.	SGVCOG
Jahn, Bill	SANBAG
Loveridge, Ronald	City of Riverside
Malsin, Scott	Westside Cities COG
McCullough, Kathryn	OCCOG
Mitchell, John D.	SANBAG
Morehouse, Carl	Ventura/VCOG
Mosca, Joseph	SGVCOG
Nowatka, Paul	City of Torrance
Nunez, John H.	SGVCOG
Olhasso, Laura	Arroyo Verdugo
Ring, Bob	OCCOG
Robertson, Deborah	City of Rialto
White, Charles	WRCOG

Members Not Present

Bayer, Anne	Gateway Cities
Coerper, Gil (EA)	City of Huntington Beach
Jasper, Timothy	City of Apple Valley
Jeffra, Jim	Lancaster
Lantz, Paula (EA)	City of Pomona
Lee, Laura	Gateway Cities
McCallon, Larry (Vice-Chair)	City of Highland
Norby, Chris	Orange County

Members Not Present (Continued)

Palmer, Jim	OCCOG
Perry, Jan	Los Angeles
Reyes, Ed	Los Angeles
Serrano, Joseph	Gateway Cities

1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Hon. Jon Edney, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM, and asked the Hon. Carl Morehouse to lead the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hon. Edney introduced two new members, John Mitchell from the City of Colton, representing SANBAG, and Bill Jahn from the City of Big Bear, representing SANBAG.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

3.0 REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no agenda reprioritizations.

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 Approval Item

4.2 Receive and File

A MOTION was made by Hon. Christine Barnes to APPROVE the Consent Calendar, with the exception of Item 4.2.2, which was pulled for further discussion. The MOTION was SECONDED by Hon. Carl Morehouse and APPROVED. The following members abstained: Hon. Jon Edney, Hon. Scott Malsin, Hon. Bill Jahn, Hon. John Mitchell, and Hon. Diane Dubois.

4.2.2 2008 Year-End Compass Blueprint Demonstration Project Summary

Hon. John Nunez expressed concern that there has been no support for the San Gabriel Valley Arrow Highway Corridor Project from the COG or the cities.

Ms. Lynn Harris, Manager of Community Development for SCAG, stated that there has been a disagreement with the COG Director, but staff continues to meet with the five cities involved. Ms. Harris stated that the study is about 30% underway, and there is a consensus on the project area and a consensus on the scope of work with the five cities. Ms. Harris further stated that the COG is not required to sign off on the project for these five cities.

A MOTION was made by Hon. John Nunez to accept Item 4.2.2 for Receive and File. The MOTION was SECONDED by the Hon. Carl Morehouse and APPROVED. The following members abstained: Hon.

Jon Edney, Hon. Scott Malsin, Hon. Bill Jahn, Hon. John Mitchell and Hon. Diane Dubois.

5.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Compass Blueprint Demonstration Project – City of Coachella

Pria Hidisyan, Senior Regional Planner for SCAG, stated that approximately 50 demonstration projects have been completed throughout the region through the Compass Blueprint Program. The deadline for the next round of applications is January 25, 2008. Ms. Hidisyan introduced Karren Gulley from The Planning Center to give an overview of the successful project completed in the City of Coachella.

Karen Gulley stated that the City of Coachella is the sixth fastest growing city in the state and is currently 32 square miles and now has a 32 square mile sphere of influence. Ms. Gulley further stated that The Planning Center was asked to focus on a smaller portion of the 32 square mile sphere of influence. The City identified two separate study areas; one north of the airport, and another east of State Route 86. The project objectives were primarily to assist the City leaders in defining a vision for growth. Experts were brought in on housing, circulation, economic development, infrastructure, and land use. Another objective was to do additional economic and industrial analysis to provide recommendations concerning jobs and economic development. Ms. Gulley stated that for the first time the City is getting a market rate apartment complex; otherwise, the City is entirely single family residential. These new housing types are a big part of the overall change in the City. Ms. Gulley stated there were a number of applications to convert industrial land to residential land. The Planning Center, in conjunction with other consultants, provided an analysis of industrial inventory and industrial job opportunities to help identify the best locations for these industrial uses. Ms. Gulley further stated that the City's main objective in the future is to be a balanced community, with an adequate supply of jobs. She stated they looked at potential build-out of the City as a whole, with 64 square miles and with the potential population of some 25,000 residents, the City will need approximately 3,000 acres of non-retail employment. That provided a benchmark at which to evaluate proposals for converting industrial zone land to residential zone land. The next step for the City is to update their General Plan.

Hon. Scott Malsin inquired with regard to creating a proper balance between industrial, commercial and residential uses, how SCAG will account for whether a city is a low or high property tax city. Ms. Gulley stated that the City, as part of their General Plan, will do a fiscal impact analysis and property taxes will be addressed at that time.

Ms. Harris stated that typically staff does not take that policy decision into account at this level and incorporate those kinds of considerations when there is a question of what type of land use the City might require. Ms. Harris further stated

that it is very important to have economic studies accompany the General Plan updates because from a policy perspective, higher yielding land use may be encouraged, but the market may not support it.

Hon. Christine Barnes expressed concern about shrinking agricultural land, as it is very important to California's economy. Ms. Gulley stated that they met with land owners and the agricultural business men that have been farming this land, and most of them have submitted a non-renewal status with the Williamson Act. They do not see this agricultural land use being effectual past another 10 years, due to the fact that Coachella is a desert, and farming can be done more effectively elsewhere.

Hon. Joe Garcia expressed concern regarding RHNA standards and whether Coachella is being asked to disproportionately meet this standard. Hon. Jon Edney stated that the RHNA methodology went with the 110% solution strategy, which helped offset some of the disproportionate housing numbers within those classifications and addresses that concern. Hon Edney suggested having this discussion at a separate meeting.

Hon. Carl Morehouse stated that during his tenure at SCAG twelve years ago, there was a finance task force headed by Ron Bates and the suggestions that came from that body addressed the issues that drive land use, which continues to be problematic, as we address SB 375. Hon. Morehouse further stated that the Compass Blueprint Program and other programs offering solutions will be circumvented by a revenue stream that drives cities to chase sales and property tax dollars. Hon. Morehouses suggested that this Committee address the issue.

Hon. Jon Edney stated that the issue is to get state leaders to recalibrate how cities receive money, so it becomes more balanced and builds more balanced communities. Hon. Edney directed staff to put this suggestion on a future agenda for more discussion.

Hon. Kathryn McCullough expressed her concern regarding California's water shortage and the consequences of bringing in manufacturers that use more water. She stated that it will create an imbalance with housing.

5.2 2008 RTP Strategic Growth Opportunity Areas

John Fregonese reviewed some tools for identifying strategic places in Southern California by using some of the data analysis that was left behind from the RTP. Mr. Fregonese began by explaining that the RTP was based on three test scenarios; 1) Baseline; 2) Workshop; and 3) Policy. The baseline was based on a trend forecast and plan input. The workshop scenario was based on the outcome of 17 workshops with 400 people involved, and over 3,000 comments modifying a map. The policy started with the workshops and then made strategic adjustments to improve transportation efficiency. Compared to the baseline, the policy alternative improved in terms of a 3.6% reduction of VMT over 20.8

million miles, vehicle hour reduction, and delay reduction. Mr. Fregonese introduced a concept called 4Ds, which will bring more land use sensitivity to the models. The 4Ds are 1) Density; 2) Diversity; 3) Design; and 4) Destination. Mr. Fregonese explained that SCAG obtained a grant to develop a prototype or a pilot project for implementing the 4Ds. When you add the 4Ds you get substantially increased reductions in VMT. Mr. Fregonese stated that the purpose is to develop tools that local governments and SCAG can use to reduce travel. The three strategies used to accomplish this are: 1) look at cities that already have high scores and focus growth there; 2) look at important cities with low scores and explore how to improve those scores; 3) when building centers in cities, such as Coachella, build them in a way that they will naturally obtain high scores. In conclusion, Mr. Fregonese stated he would like to take the 4Ds tool and make it a web tool available on SCAG's website. Mr. Fregonese further stated he and staff will evaluate the 4Ds use and how it can most effectively benefit the membership of SCAG. It is a leading edge tool to let people know that SCAG is on the cutting edge in providing these tools and making them accessible to local governments. A package will be designed and introduced through "Toolbox Tuesdays", and a spring roll-out is planned.

5.3 SB 375 Progress/Status Report

Don Rhodes, Manager of the Legislative Department for SCAG, presented an overview of SB 375. He stated that one of the first initiatives of SB 375 dealt with CEQA streamlining to make it easier to do environmental reviews in infill areas. However, since that time the bill has changed and now deals more with greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Rhodes stated that Senator Steinberg would like to set up an objective, which is based strictly on incentives to which local governments and regional COGs will provide regional plans for transportation and housing needs to deal with AB 32 kinds of issues. Senator Steinberg also points out the linkage between greenhouse gas emissions and vehicles. Mr. Rhodes pointed out that there have been many versions of SB 375, and the last one made it to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, which means it's a 2-year bill. That's where the bill sits now waiting to see if these issues can be resolved. Mr. Rhodes stated that many organizations, such as the League of Cities, have gotten involved to discuss the bill's major issues such as CEQA. Mr. Rhodes stated that at the Executive Committee, Mayor Loveridge directed staff to define a strategy to move the bill forward and to the Senate floor by February or March.

The Chair asked that SB 375 be put on the February agenda to bring the Committee background on the contents of this bill and the most current information.

5.4 2008 Regional Champion Awards

Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer for SCAG, reminded the Committee that it is time to consider candidates for the 2008 Regional Champion Awards. Mr. Chidsey said that candidates should be dedicated to regional issues, and

expressly gone above and beyond their normal service. He requested that the Committee bring their nominations to the February meeting. Hon. Edney recommended that if any nominations come in prior to our next meeting to send them to Ms. Harris.

6.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Hon. Edney thanked the Committee's Vice-Chair, Larry McCallon, for filling in for him last month. He also informed the Committee that the Force for Change Committee is working on alternative strategies to restructure the meeting day for the policy committees, Executive Committee, and Regional Council. Hon. Edney congratulated Mayor Loveridge for his successful election as 2nd Vice President of the National League of Cities.

7.0 STAFF REPORT

Ms. Harris reported that three cities filed lawsuits regarding the final Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan, two cities in Los Angeles County, La Mirada and Palmdale, and one city in Orange County, Irvine. On December 28th, the judge for the two Los Angeles County lawsuits held a hearing and dismissed the lawsuits with a finding that there is no legislative relief city by city contained in the current RHNA legislation. The Irvine case will be heard in Orange County on January 29th.

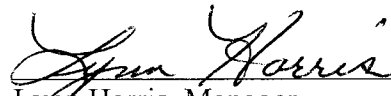
8.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Hon. McCullough requested a place on the agenda for Committee members to report on outside meetings that have a relevance to CEHD policy areas.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Edney adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.

Minutes Approved By:



Lynn Harris, Manager
Community Development